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# Advocate of Peace.

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## The Magdalena Bay Resolution.

There is serious reason to fear that the Lodge resolution adopted by the Senate on August 2d, by a vote of 51 to 4, will have mischievous results in more than one direction. The text of the resolution is as follows:

*Resolved*, That when any harbor or other place on the American continents is so situated that the occupation thereof for naval or military purposes might threaten the communications or the safety of the United States, the Government of the United States could not see without grave concern the possession of such harbor or other place by any corporation or association which has such a relation to another government, not American, as to give that government practical power of control for national purposes.

It seems incredible that the Senate of the United States should have allowed itself to be drawn, under the existing circumstances, into the approval of such a declaration as this. There was no occasion what-

ever for it. The investigation of the Magdalena Bay affair, authorized by a previous resolution, introduced by Senator Lodge, had proved clearly that the Japanese Government had had nothing to do with the fishing company with whom the American owners of the property were negotiating for its sale. After this was made clear, the whole matter ought to have been dropped, after a report of the facts to the Senate. The course which the Senate took, after it had discovered the true situation, looks very much like an effort on the part of Senator Lodge and his fellow Senators to cover up the weakness and unwisdom of their former action, by an appeal to a popular sentiment which has never failed to respond quickly and enthusiastically and sometimes blindly to any hint of trespass on the rights and the assumed political supremacy of the United States in the Western Hemisphere.

The adoption of this resolution, following immediately upon the investigation, although it is couched in perfectly general terms, will inevitably impress the Japanese Government and people with the conviction that our Senate, and indeed the whole Government and people, do not trust them, but believe them to be secretly and persistently cherishing ill-will and evil designs against the United States, which they are seeking covertly the first opportunity to carry out. Unfortunately a section of the people of this country, misled by anti-Japanese orators and yellow journals, believe this of Japan. But the Senate knows better, and instead of catering to this miserable and utterly groundless sentiment it ought rather to have taken advantage of the occasion to put the seal of its indignant disapproval upon it. That would have been the high-minded and statesmanlike thing to do. This gratuitous offense to the Japanese sensibilities at the present time, for such it is even though the Senate doubtless did not intend it so, is entirely unworthy of our country. It can hardly fail to have a lasting and most unfortunate influence on the general attitude of the Far East towards us.

In the direction of the Monroe Doctrine in general there was still less occasion for any such resolution. Looking around the entire horizon of the Americas not a single ground can be cited anywhere for the reassertion and extension of the Monroe Doctrine, as is said to be made in this resolution. Where is any commercial or trading company seeking to get concession of positions which may be turned against us by the home government as military or naval bases? Not even the most lynx-eyed "patriotism" of any member of the Senate can point out a single instance. But to seek to avoid giving